United Nations A/C.4/60/L.1

General Assembly

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21 September 2005

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Sixtieth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Organization of work

Note by the Chairman

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for consideration are listed in document A/C.4/60/1. Background information on those items, including references to related documentation, is set out in the annotated preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the sixtieth session (A/60/100 and Add.1).[1]

2. The General Assembly, in rule 99, paragraph (b), of its rules of procedure, calls on each Main Committee to adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated for the consideration of each item.

3. The General Assembly decided that the sixtieth session should recess on Tuesday, 13 December 2005, and that, inter alia, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) should complete its work by Thursday, 10 November 2005 (see A/60/250, paras. 13 and 14).

4. To that end, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) may wish to consider adopting as a provisional guideline the approximate dates set out below for the consideration of the items on its agenda with the understanding that it may be revised periodically, as appropriate, according to the availability of related documents. The Committee will also combine consideration of specific items on its agenda in order to ensure full and efficient utilization of the conference facilities allocated to it. As indicated below, conference services has allocated 27 meetings to the Committee and has urged the Committee to make every effort to complete its work within the allotted time. Should the Committee wish to change the dates for consideration of items, it would still have to work within the dates and times indicated below.

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Agenda items	*Dates for consideration*
Organization of work	29 September-a.m.
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 26)	5 October-p.m. 6 October-p.m. 7 October-p.m. 10 October-a.m. 11 October-a.m.
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (item 34)	
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 35)	
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (item 36)	
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 37)	
Questions relating to information (item 33) (Interactive presentation by the Secretariat followed by general debate)	12 October-a.m. 13 October-a.m. 14 October-a.m.
International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 29) (Panel or interactive presentation by the Secretariat on its work followed by general debate)	17 October-p.m. 18 October-p.m. 19 October-p.m.
Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 32) (Interactive dialogue with the Secretariat in accordance with the chapters of the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. The Committee will also have informal discussions on civilian police in peacekeeping operations.)	20 October-p.m. 21 October-p.m. 24 October-a.m. 25 October-a.m.
Assistance in mine action (item 27)	26 October-a.m. 27 October-a.m.
Effects of atomic radiation (item 28)	28 October-a.m.
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (116)	31 October-p.m.
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (item 30) (Question-and-answer period)	1 November-p.m. 2 November-p.m. 3 November-a.m.
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (item 31)	7 November-a.m. 8 November-a.m. 9 November-a.m.
Action on all draft resolutions submitted under items 30 and 31	10 November-a.m.

5. In the preparation of the above timetable, the Chairman was guided by the following considerations:

(a) In accordance with established procedures and practices and bearing in mind the availability of documentation, the Committee may wish to hold one general debate covering agenda items 26, 34, 35, 36 and 37 and individual debates on agenda items 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 116, on the understanding that draft resolutions and/or decisions will be considered separately;

(b) Representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories and petitioners will be heard as early as possible during the Committee's consideration of the related items;

(c) Since item 116, "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly", is also allocated to the Committee for the sole purpose of considering and taking action on its tentative programme of work for the next session, the Committee may wish to take it up towards the end of October, utilizing the meetings reserved for item 28 "Effects of atomic radiation".

6. Subject to the above provisional programme of work being acceptable to the Committee and in order to facilitate its work, the Chairman wishes to suggest that the list of speakers in the general debate covering agenda items 26, 34, 35, 36 and 37 be closed on Wednesday, 5 October, at 6 p.m. The Committee will take decisions relating to the general debates on the remaining items at the appropriate time.

7. The Chairman wishes also to draw attention to the decisions of the General Assembly on the organization of its work contained in document A/60/250, sections II.B to III.

8. Members are also requested to bear in mind the General Assembly's decision that morning and afternoon meetings should start promptly at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., both for all plenary meetings and for meetings of the Main Committees during the sixtieth session. It was also decided that during the final week of Ramadan, from 31 October to 4 November 2005, when local time will be Eastern Standard Time, the hours of the plenary meetings and the meetings of the Main Committees should be from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. at the latest (see A/60/250, para. 16). Members' attention is also drawn to the Assembly's decision to waive at its sixtieth session the quorum required, under rule 108 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, for the Chairman to declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed (see A/60/250, para. 20).

9. In view of the limited number of meetings available to the Committee, it is suggested that the time limit for statements be set at 10 minutes, with the exception of statements made by the spokespersons of groups of delegations, which would be extended to 15 minutes.

10. In order to allow the distribution of prepared texts of statements made in the Committee to delegations, specialized agencies, observers, interpreters and record-writers, 300 copies are required. A minimum of 30 copies should be given in advance of delivery of the statement in order to help the Secretariat to provide the best possible service.

11. The list of documents submitted under the various agenda items allocated to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) is contained in document A/C.4/60/INF/1.

Notes

[1] For the final list of agenda items adopted by the General Assembly, see document A/60/251.

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Sixtieth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 37
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

Algeria, Argentina, China, Cuba, Egypt, Ghana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nigeria, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and United Republic of Tanzania: draft resolution

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 59/130 of 10 December 2004,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories,[1] prepared pursuant to its resolution 845 (IX) of 22 November 1954,

Conscious of the importance of promoting the educational advancement of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Strongly convinced that the continuation and expansion of offers of scholarships is essential in order to meet the increasing need of students from Non-Self-Governing Territories for educational and training assistance, and considering that students in those Territories should be encouraged to avail themselves of such offers,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have made scholarships available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Invites* all States to make or continue to make generous offers of study and training facilities to the inhabitants of those Territories that have not yet attained self-government or independence and, wherever possible, to provide travel funds to

[1] A/60/67.

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prospective students;

4. *Urges* the administering Powers to take effective measures to ensure the widespread and continuous dissemination in the Territories under their administration of information relating to offers of study and training facilities made by States and to provide all the necessary facilities to enable students to avail themselves of such offers;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to the present resolution.

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Sixtieth session
Fourth Committee
Agenda item 26
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Question of Gibraltar

The General Assembly, recalling its decision 59/519 of 10 December 2004 and the statements agreed to by the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Brussels on 27 November 1984,[1] and in Madrid on 27 October 2004, and noting the establishment, pursuant to the latter, of the tripartite forum for dialogue on Gibraltar, under the statement made jointly by the Governments of Spain, and the United Kingdom and Gibraltar on 16 December 2004:

(a) Urges both Governments, while listening to the interests and aspirations of Gibraltar, to reach, in the spirit of the 27 November 1984 statement, a definitive solution to the question of Gibraltar, in the light of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and applicable principles, and in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) Welcomes the establishment of a new tripartite forum for dialogue on Gibraltar, under the statement of 16 December 2004, separate from the Brussels Process.

[1] A/39/732, annex.

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Sixtieth session
Fourth Committee
Agenda item 26
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Question of Gibraltar

The General Assembly, recalling its decision 59/519 of 10 December 2004 and the statements agreed to by the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Brussels on 27 November 1984,[1] and in Madrid on 27 October 2004, and noting the establishment, pursuant to the latter, of the tripartite forum for dialogue on Gibraltar, under the statement made jointly by the Governments of Spain, the United Kingdom and Gibraltar on 16 December 2004:

(a) Urges both Governments, while listening to the interests and aspirations of Gibraltar, to reach, in the spirit of the 27 November 1984 statement, a definitive solution to the question of Gibraltar, in the light of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and applicable principles, and in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) Welcomes the establishment of a new tripartite forum for dialogue on Gibraltar, under the statement of 16 December 2004, separate from the Brussels Process.

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

[1] A/39/732, annex.

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Sixtieth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 26
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman

Question of Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered in depth the question of Western Sahara,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling its resolution 59/131 of 10 December 2004,

Recalling also all resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on the question of Western Sahara,

Recalling further Security Council resolutions 658 (1990) of 27 June 1990 and 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Security Council approved the settlement plan for Western Sahara,[1]

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1359 (2001) of 29 June 2001 and 1429 (2002) of 30 July 2002, as well as 1495 (2003) of 31 July 2003, in which the Council expressed its support of the peace plan for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara[2] as an optimum political solution on the basis of agreement between the two parties, and resolutions 1541 (2004) of 29 April 2004, 1570 (2004) of 28 October 2004 and 1598 (2005) of 28 April 2005,

[1] See S/21360 and S/22464 and Corr.1.
[2] S/2003/565 and Corr.1, annex II.

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Taking note of the responses of the parties and neighbouring States to the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General concerning the peace plan contained in the report of the Secretary-General of 23 May 2003,[3]

Reaffirming the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara,

Noting with satisfaction the entry into force of the ceasefire in accordance with the proposal made by the Secretary-General,[4] and stressing the importance it attaches to the maintenance of the ceasefire as an integral part of the settlement plan,

Underlining, in this regard, the validity of the settlement plan, while noting the fundamental differences between the parties in its implementation,

Stressing that the lack of progress in the settlement of the dispute on Western Sahara continues to cause suffering to the people of Western Sahara, remains a source of potential instability in the region and obstructs the economic development of the Maghreb region and that, in view of this, the search for a political solution is critically needed,

Welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy in search of a mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara,

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[5]

Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Underlines* Security Council resolution 1495 (2003), in which the Council expressed its support of the peace plan for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara as an optimum political solution on the basis of agreement between the two parties;

3. *Underlines also* that the parties reacted differently to this plan;

4. *Continues to support strongly* the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy in order to achieve a mutually acceptable political solution to the dispute over Western Sahara;

5. *Commends* the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for their outstanding efforts and the two parties for the spirit of cooperation they have shown in the support they provide for those efforts;

6. *Calls upon* all the parties and the States of the region to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy;

7. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara;

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[3] S/2003/565 and Corr.1.
[4] See A/60/116.
[5] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/60/23), chap. VIII.

8. *Calls upon* the parties to cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross in its efforts to solve the problem of the fate of the people unaccounted for, and calls upon the parties to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law to release without further delay all those held since the start of the conflict;

9. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to consider the situation in Western Sahara and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

10. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.